

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MOSCOW 15133 270744Z

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9147
INFO AMCONSUL LEINIGRAD
AMCONSUL MUNICH

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MOSCOW 15133

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, UR
SUBJ: FOOD SUPPLIES: ASHKHABAD, SEPT 22

1. EMBOFFS SURVEYED ASHKHABAD'S LARGEST OPERATING KOLKHOZ MARKET SEPT 22 AT 0730, AND SEVERAL STATE MEAT STORES LATER IN THE DAY. MEAT STALLS AT THE MARKET WERE NOT OPERATING YET, BUT A LOCAL CONTACT TOLD US PORK AND BEEF PRICES HAD RECENTLY RISEN AS HIGH AS R 5 PER KILO. WE WERE TOLD SUCH PRICES HAD MADE MEAT AN UNAFFORDABLE LUXURY FOR MANY WORKERS. ON THE OTHER HAND, THE STATE STORES HAD POOR QUALITY BEEF FOR SALE AT R 1.90 PORK FAT AT R 2.30, MUTTON AT R 1.80, LOTS OF FISH AND A FEW DUCKS. NO CHICKEN. ONLY BREAD AVAILABLE IN MARKETS OR INTOURST RESTAURANT WAS BEIGE LEAVES (AT 20 KOPECKS APIECE) AND SMALL WHITE ROLLS.

2. FRUIT AND VEGETABLE SUPPLIES SEEMED BARELY ADEQUATE. PRICES POTATOES: 80 KOPECKS/KILO; CABBAGE, 80 K; CUCUMBERS, R 1; LOCAL PEPERS, 70 K BULGARIAN PEPERS, R 1; GARLIC, R 3; GRAPES, 50K; GREEN BEANS R 2; SMALL EGGPLANTS 50 K APEACE; POMEGRANATES, R 2; TOMATOES; R 1; PEARS, R 2; SMALL ONIONS 30 K; THURSDAY WAS FISH DAY AT LOCAL EATING ESTABLISHMENTS.
MATLOCK

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Message Attributes

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